



# SEMA News

Missouri State Emergency Management Agency  
*Preparedness · Response · Recovery*

Winter

2016

## Gov. Nixon Announces Funding for Community Disaster Planning

On Nov. 16, Gov. Jay Nixon announced \$1.2 million in grants to help Missouri communities plan for and respond to disasters. The funding, awarded to the Missouri Association of Councils of Government through the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, is designated to identify and protect key local infrastructure and resources through mitigation plans, to strengthen coordination of regional disaster response assets during emergencies and to support long-term recovery. The three grants will be administered by the Missouri Department of Economic Development.

"One of the most important functions of government is planning for and responding to natural disasters, thereby making sure people have the support they need to rebuild and move forward," Gov. Nixon said. "This grant funding will further strengthen our ability to respond quickly, efficiently and in a coordinated manner."

### CDBG Funding Summary

- **\$935,000 – To support regional hazard assessments, mitigation planning and coordination among local governments, businesses and nonprofits.**
- **\$191,000 – To create a comprehensive statewide inventory of deployable resources to improve sharing key assets locally and statewide.**
- **\$50,000 – To develop long-term local disaster recovery systems, including rebuilding, business retention and public works projects.**



A SAVE volunteer practices structural safety assessments during the earthquake exercise Oct. 16-17 in St. Louis.

## Earthquake Exercise Focuses on Structural Safety

Many buildings in eastern and southern Missouri could sustain major damage if a large earthquake strikes the state. To prepare, structural experts from across the region exercised their response to a massive earthquake Oct. 16-17 at Jefferson Barracks in south St. Louis County.

The exercise was led by the Missouri Structural Assessment and Visual Evaluation (SAVE) Coalition, a group of volunteer engineers, architects and building inspectors trained to quickly determine which buildings are safe to use and which should be evacuated after a disaster. **(Continued on page 10)**

### In This Issue

Disaster Planning Grants	1
SAVE Earthquake Exercise	1
Director's Letter	2
EMD Public Assistance Tips	3
How Timing Affects Disaster Declarations	5
Region E Profile	5
Earthquake Awareness Month	8
ShakeOut Drill Grows	8
Hazard Mitigation Works	9
Nov. Flash Flooding Kills Two	9
SEMA Training Schedule	13



## Director's Letter

**"We can't prevent weather disasters, but the more we spread the word about preparedness and weather awareness, the better the chances we can prevent the loss of life."**

**Ron Walker**

Recently, at SEMA we've been crunching numbers on declared major disasters in Missouri. Since January 2009, Missouri has experienced 10 major disaster declarations, ranging from severe storms, tornadoes and flooding to two for severe winter storms.

Of Missouri's 114 counties, 111 have been included in at least one of the declarations. Fourteen counties have been included in five disaster declarations, and five counties have had the unfortunate distinction of being included in six of the 10 – Knox, Lewis, Miller, Shelby and Sullivan counties.

In 2015, the August severe storms and flooding experienced over so much of the state led to disaster declaration DR-4238. With a total of 76 counties eventually included in the declaration, it includes more counties than any disaster in Missouri since the Great Flood of 1993.

### PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND MITIGATION

Because of the number of counties included in DR-4238, in this issue of *SEMA News* we're offering a variety of informative articles to help emergency managers navigate the sometimes complicated FEMA Public Assistance process.

Two of the Show-Me State's veteran EMDs, who've led their counties through a combined 14 major disaster declarations, share their insights on how to best tackle the PA process – from start to finish. My thanks to Bill Brinton of Buchanan County and Chris Berndt of Taney County for taking the time to share their expertise with their fellow Missouri EMDs.

As you all know, a federal disaster declaration also means eligibility for federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program [HMGP] funds. Missouri is one of only 12 states with enhanced state mitigation plans, which means increased HMGP funding. Because of Missouri's enhanced status with FEMA, the state receives 20 percent of federal PA funding for

mitigation projects, instead of the normal 15 percent.

Because of the importance of mitigation, we've included another article with a thorough overview of the mitigation process.

### FROM THE MACRO TO THE HUMAN VIEW

Finally, I want you to know we don't simply crunch numbers here at SEMA. We were saddened to see that in the week before Thanksgiving, two motorists died in flash flooding in Reynolds County. They died in separate incidents in which their vehicles were swept off bridges in the overnight hours of Nov. 17. EMD Renee Horn says parts of Reynolds County received 5-to-8 inches of rain in a 48-hour period.

It's another reminder of the tremendous danger of flash flooding, particularly in the hours between dusk and dawn when motorists often wind up in flood water before they can see it.

Most years, flooding kills more people than any other weather hazard; more than half of flooding fatalities occur when vehicles drive into floodwater.

Emergency managers and first responders in Missouri understand these stark numbers. I believe that anytime we can help remind the public – who often don't understand the danger – we have an obligation to do so. We can't prevent weather disasters, but the more we spread the word about preparedness and weather awareness, the better the chances we can prevent the loss of life.

**Ron Walker, Director**  
**Missouri State Emergency Management Agency**

## Veteran EMDs Share Insights on FEMA Public Assistance Program

Following a major disaster, it can be intimidating for a new emergency manager to attempt to navigate FEMA's Public Assistance Program. SEMA News asked two veteran Missouri EMDs to share insights from their years of experience working through a combined 14 public assistance disasters. It will come as no surprise that they agree on documenting everything and go into the process understanding it's a marathon, not a sprint.



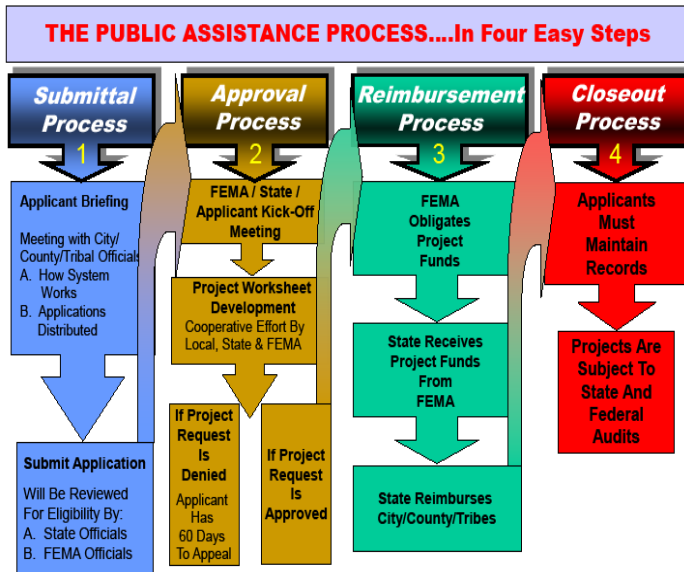
**Taney County EMD  
Chris Berndt**

Chris Berndt has been Taney County EMD since 1999. Since 2000, Taney County has been named in nine major disaster declarations, including severe storms, tornadoes, flooding and a severe winter snowstorm.

- **Know your local partners and stakeholders.** Other local agencies, such as road and bridge districts, fire districts, emergency medical services, law enforcement agencies and elected and other officials are key to coordinated disaster response and recovery efforts. But they will also play key roles in the public assistance process. Before disaster strikes, make sure they understand the roles and are ready to do their part, including when it comes to documenting response efforts, overtime hours and other key federal requirements.
- **Document well, save everything and be organized.** Before disaster strikes, have all the required documentation forms, procedures and personnel identified and ready for when they're needed. Beginning in a disaster's first moments, track and save all disaster-related information and keep it organized as you go. This will make the public assistance information-gathering phase much easier.

- **Understand damage assessment and documentation requirements.** Though you might know exactly what has been damaged and its location, it's important to have it all properly and accurately documented, organized and in a form that public assistance personnel can use to help your jurisdiction obtain the right type and amount of public assistance.
- **Map it.** Map where damage occurs during the response phase. This will be useful later when damage assessment teams must find and document all the damage in your area. Having good maps expedites the process.
- **Get the right permits.** Find out early what permits are required for the public assistance application process and secure them. Obtaining permits later is much more difficult.
- **Be aware of environmental concerns.** Identify potential environmental concerns that could be raised by reconstruction projects and be ready to address them before including them in your assistance application. Projects that could threaten an endangered species or impact a natural waterway could significantly hinder the approval process.
- **Know your funding options and use them wisely.** Determine exactly what to do with infrastructure that has been damaged and understand the different available funding options for each type of project. This includes basic repairs, hazard mitigation projects, repairs with improvements and item replacement with relocation. Also, don't repair items that are no longer needed and use the funds for alternate projects. While it often is simplest to rebuild existing infrastructure, there are often better options.
- **Know your debris disposal options.** This can be a complex issue and there are specific rules that apply. Determine what types of debris have been created and understand the removal and disposal options available for each. You must also decide who will do the removal and whether jurisdiction resources, contract services or a combination will be used. Finally, identify and prepare an approved disposal site.

(Continued on next page)



Courtesy of FEMA

## EMDs Share Public Assistance Lessons

(Continued from page 3)

- **Be familiar with federal rules and regulations.** This includes understanding the National Historic Preservation Act's unique requirements. Because of Missouri's valuable history and its many old structures, it's important to know if anything of historical significance was damaged and what must be done to meet federal preservation regulations. All public assistance rules and requirements are public information and can be found on FEMA's website. By being familiar with what's required, you'll be prepared to provide necessary information, answer questions and work more effectively as a team with public assistance representatives. Together, this can make the public assistance process more effective and efficient for everyone involved.
- **Be patient, but take action.** The entire process, from major disaster declaration request to the release of public assistance funds, can seem slow and tedious. But because a federal disaster declaration may never be approved, you must move ahead on projects that will protect the public's safety. Carefully gather documentation before you start any work and through every step of the project. Follow the Public Assistance Program's rules to preserve eligibility,

including: timesheets (for labor); invoices and canceled checks for materials and supplies; operations and maintenance logs for equipment; contracts, solicitations, contractor selections notices; rental contracts; lease agreements and more.

- **When in doubt, contact SEMA's Public Assistance Program before committing resources.** They can provide valuable guidance and coordinate with FEMA to obtain project eligibility determination. Also, it may take months or even years to close out a project. That's why it is important to keep thorough documentation, provide it every time it is requested and keep it until the project is officially closed.

Bill Brinton has been Buchanan County EMD since 2004. Since then, Buchanan County has been included in five major disaster declarations, including widespread flooding, ice storms and a severe snowstorm.



**Buchanan County EMD Bill Brinton**

- **Take advantage of available state and federal resources.** During the 2011 major disaster declaration for widespread flooding, we used FEMA's Substantial Damage Estimator to develop accurate damage estimates. Along with the Buchanan County Assessor's Office, we visited every home and business that sustained flood damage. By following the damage estimator tool, we were able to assist our citizens determining whether their property damage would be covered by insurance or if they qualified for federal Individual Assistance.
- **Careful photo documentation is key.** Take detailed photos of all the damage and take more than you think you'll need. These photos help describe and document damage caused by the disaster. Buchanan County has excellent GIS capabilities, which allowed us to provide both pre- and post-damages documentation.

(Continued on page 11)



## Indiana Disaster Denial Due to 3 Day Break in Stormy Weather

Local and state officials in Indiana this summer learned that a three-day break in stormy weather cost the state millions of dollars. After severe storms and flooding in the state from June 7 to July 29, Indiana sought a federal major disaster declaration for 19 counties, citing more than \$11 million in infrastructure damage. At least 10 deaths were also connected to the storms.

FEMA officials decided federal assistance was not needed because the destruction was from two periods of extreme weather, not one continuous event, according to WANE-TV. The Fort Wayne, Ind. station reported: "Federal law requires FEMA to consider singular events, and not seasons or multiple events over an extended period of time," FEMA spokeswoman Cassie Ringsdorf said in an email to the station. "Because there was at least a 72-hour break in the storms, Indiana did not meet the requirements for a federal disaster declaration," Ringsdorf said.

"Careful documentation during and after a disaster is crucial to the federal major disaster declaration and public assistance processes," said Ron Broxton, SEMA Recovery Division manager. "This includes recording the exact date and time a disaster begins. For weather-related events, we often rely on information provided by the National Weather Service to determine exactly when a damaging storm system began affecting the state. This information is a valuable addition to the documentation we submit for federal disaster declaration and public assistance requests."

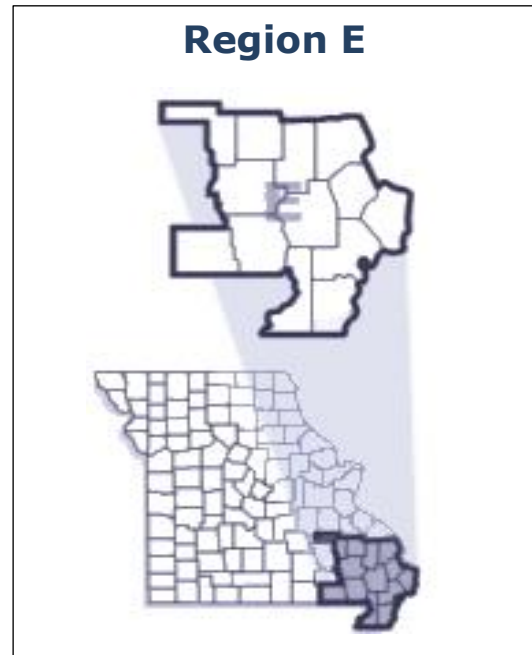
### 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Missouri Emergency Management Conference

*April 19 - 22, 2016  
Chateau on the Lake, Branson*

**REGISTER NOW!**

**[www.sema.dps.mo.gov](http://www.sema.dps.mo.gov)**

**\$175 conference fee *early bird special*  
is available until March 18, 2016.**



## Missouri Emergency Management Region Profile: Region E

Region E covers extreme southeast Missouri, including the Bootheel. The region includes Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Dunklin, Iron, Madison, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Ripley, Scott, Stoddard and Wayne counties, with a total population of more than 334,000. The largest cities are Cape Girardeau, Farmington, Sikeston and Jackson.

While the region features a mix of manufacturing, shipping and other industries, the area is best known for agriculture. Because of the rich soil left from Mississippi River floods over thousands of years, the area is ideal for growing soybeans, rice, cotton and watermelons. Region E counties are part of an area that accounts for more than 25 percent of the state's entire agricultural crop production.

Five Region E counties border the Mississippi River. Businesses use the region's five river port facilities to transport a wide assortment of agricultural and manufactured goods. A Class I rail line also transports freight through the area via the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and the Union Pacific Railroad.

(Continued on next page)

## **Missouri Emergency Management Region Profile: Region E**

(Continued from page 5)

Three interstate and four U.S. highways pass through the region. Interstate highways are I-55, I-57 and I-155. U.S. routes are 60, 61, 62 and 67.

Colleges and universities include Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, with regional campuses in Sikeston, Kennett and Malden. Three Rivers College is located in Poplar Bluff, with satellite locations in Sikeston, Dexter, Kennett and Malden. Mineral Area College is located in Park Hills, with classes offered in Ironton, Farmington, Fredericktown, Perryville, Potosi and Winona.

Flooding has been the most common emergency situation recently, including intentional flooding. Heavy rains in April 2011 caused the Mississippi River to rise and threaten to flood communities downriver, including Cairo, Ill. To protect the town, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers decided to lower the river level by activating the Birds Point-New Madrid Floodway, which would flood nearby farmland. On May 3, the corps used explosives to open an 11,000-foot section of the Birds Point Levee, flooding 130,000 acres of farmland in Missouri's Mississippi County.

It also wiped out the Mississippi County village of Pinhook, with a population about 30. Located about 35 miles from Sikeston, Pinhook was founded by African-American farmers before World War II.

Region E is also located within the New Madrid Seismic Zone, one of the nation's most active seismic zones and the location of the historic 1811-12 New Madrid Earthquakes. Between December 1811 and February 1812, four of the strongest earthquakes on record struck the region, with estimated magnitudes as high as 8.0. In response, the federal government initiated its first-ever disaster relief effort. Louisiana Territory Gov. William Clark asked for federal relief for the "inhabitants of New Madrid County." The government responded by issuing New Madrid Certificates, entitling displaced landowners to new acreage in Louisiana Purchase territory.

## **Region E Emergency Management Directors**

### **Don Seymore, City of Dexter**

Don Seymore serves part-time as EMD for Dexter, a position he has held for four years. He also serves as chief of the Dexter Fire Department. His combined experience in firefighting and emergency management spans more than 30 years.

Seymore says one of his biggest challenges is planning and preparing for railroad-related emergencies because about 60 trains pass through Dexter each day.

### **Jeff McCreary, Mineral Area College, Park Hills**

Jeff McCreary joined Mineral Area College as director of public safety in February. Previously, he served as chief of the Crystal City Police Department. He has 28 years of law enforcement experience, serving stints as patrol officer, investigator, captain and assistant chief of police. He has also served as the municipal police representative on the Jefferson County Public Safety Committee. He has been a member of the Missouri Police Chiefs Association and the FBI's Law Enforcement Executive Development Association.

McCreary has an associate's degree from Jefferson College and a bachelor's degree in administration of criminal justice from Bellevue University in Nebraska.

McCreary says the biggest challenge he currently faces is adjusting to serving in a college campus environment compared to working for a municipality.

According to McCreary, the most rewarding aspect of his work is being able to help during an actual emergency.

McCreary and his wife, Dana, have a grown son, Colby.

### **Jim Hollingshad, City of Malden**

Jim Hollingshad has served part-time as Malden EMD for five years. He also serves full-time as funeral director for Bradshaw Funeral Home in Malden. He has also served as an officer with the Malden Police Department and he served in the U.S. Army in logistics and hazardous materials transportation.

(Continued on next page)

## Region E Emergency Management Directors

(Continued from page 6)

Hollingshad says one of the most challenging aspects of being an EMD is training and maintaining an all-volunteer emergency management agency.

Hollingshad says he gets the greatest satisfaction from knowing that his work may help lessen an emergency's impact on his community.

Hollingshad and his wife, Sheila, live in Malden. They have two children and two grandchildren.

### Jim Harris, City of New Madrid

Jim Harris serves as EMD for New Madrid, where he also serves as chief of the New Madrid Fire Department.

Chief Harris says the biggest challenges he faces as EMD are finding adequate funding and building support for local emergency management initiatives.

Chief Harris says he gets the greatest reward from his work after an emergency when the emergency response plans worked and everyone made it through alive.

Chief Harris and his wife, Jessie, live in New Madrid and have three sons, Darren, Waylon and Gavin.

### Larry Kelly, Dunklin County

Larry Kelly has served as Dunklin County EMD for nine years. He was named to the position after he retired from serving as director of federal programs for the Kennett Public School District. He also served as a high school basketball official in Missouri and Arkansas.

Kelly says that when he first became an EMD, his greatest challenge was learning the terminology and acronyms.

Kelly says he gains satisfaction from serving people during emergencies that interrupt their daily lives.



Kelly and his wife, Linda, have lived in Kennett for more than 40 years.

### Rebecca "Becky" Hunt, Madison County

Becky Hunt is Madison County EMD, a volunteer position she has held for seven years. She has also served full-time as administrator for the Madison County Health Department for 16 years.

Hunt says her greatest challenge as volunteer EMD is providing ongoing coordination between local emergency management partners during non-emergency periods to keep them engaged and ready.

Hunt says she is honored to serve as EMD in her home county and that she is gratified when people ask what they can do to help during emergencies.

Hunt and her husband, Larry, live on her family farm in northern Madison County. Together they have three sons and three grandchildren.

### Robbie Myers, Butler County

Robbie Myers became Butler County EMD in March. Previously, he served on the Butler County Commission for 12 years and served as interim EMD from late 2012 through early 2013.

Myers says one of the biggest challenges he faces as EMD is securing resources to complete projects that would enhance the county's disaster preparedness and response capabilities.

Myers says the most rewarding aspect of this role is working with professionals and volunteers who are dedicated to his community's safety.

Myers and his wife, Lori, live in Poplar Bluff. They have a 16-year old son, Reagan.

### Robert Hearnese, City of Charleston

Robert Hearnese has served as director of public safety for the city of Charleston since April 2007. He also serves as chief for both the city's police and fire departments. He also serves as assistant EMD for Mississippi County.

Hearnese has 25 years of public safety experience.

Hearnese says the greatest challenge he faces is balancing the many different roles and responsibilities that come with leading three different but related agencies.

Hearnese says he gains satisfaction simply from doing his job.

Hearnese and his wife, Becky, live in Charleston. They have two children, Rachel and Robert.

## February is Missouri Earthquake Awareness Month

On Feb. 7, 1812, one of North America's most powerful earthquakes on record struck in southeast Missouri in what is now known as the New Madrid Seismic Zone. To help prepare Missourians in case another catastrophic earthquake occurs, each February Missouri observes Earthquake Awareness Month.

The NMSZ is still one of the most active seismic zones in the nation. According to the Missouri Geological Survey, more than 200 micro-seismic events – earthquakes that can be measured by seismographs but not felt by humans – occur every year. Earthquake Awareness Month is an ideal time to educate people about earthquake hazards and emphasize the importance of being prepared for all types of emergencies.

Resources for families, schools and businesses are available on SEMA's Earthquake Preparedness Web page. Included are fact sheets, interactive maps and educational videos. Go to:  
[www.sema.dps.mo.gov/earthquake\\_preparedness](http://www.sema.dps.mo.gov/earthquake_preparedness).

### Earthquake Awareness Month Activities

**Feb. 5 – Structural Assessment and Visual Evaluation (SAVE) Board Quarterly Meeting – Jefferson City**

**Feb. 11 – Seismic Safety Commission Quarterly Meeting – St. Louis**

**Feb. 15 – SEMA Earthquake Risk and Preparedness Presentation to Community Groups – Piedmont**

**Date TBD – QuakeSmart Business Summit – Cape Girardeau**

**Date TBD – Earthquake Preparedness Seminar for Homes – Poplar Bluff**

For details, contact Jeff Briggs, SEMA earthquake program manager, at (573)526-9232 or [jeff.briggs@sema.dps.mo.gov](mailto:jeff.briggs@sema.dps.mo.gov).



Students at Lawson Elementary School in Jefferson City participate in the 2015 Great Central U. S. "ShakeOut" earthquake drill on Oct. 15.

## 2015 ShakeOut Drill Participation Increased

More than 522,000 Missourians participated in the 2015 Great Central U. S. "ShakeOut" earthquake drill on Oct. 15, an increase of more than 120,000 from the 2014 drill. Missouri was one of 14 states taking part in this year's drill, which had a total participation of more than 3.2 million, up more than 700,000 over last year.

During the ShakeOut, participants practiced the Drop, Cover, Hold On technique:

- **DROP** to the ground
- **Take COVER** by getting under a sturdy desk or table, and
- **HOLD ON** to it until the shaking stops

Experts say Drop, Cover, Hold On is the best way to protect yourself from falling debris, which is the most likely cause of injury during an earthquake in developed nations.

"It's great to see so many Missourians chose to take part in this year's ShakeOut drill," said SEMA director Ron Walker. "Earthquakes occur without warning, so it's important to know in advance how to respond."

The New Madrid Seismic Zone includes most of southeast Missouri. A major earthquake there would likely cause major damage in much of southern and eastern Missouri, including the St. Louis area.



## Hazard Mitigation Offers Long-term Protection from Disaster Damage

Spring flooding along the Mississippi River is a continuing problem for St. Charles County residents who live in low-lying areas along the river and feeder creeks and streams. More than 40 percent of the county lies within what FEMA identifies as a Special Flood Hazard Area.

For more than two decades, the community has utilized mitigation to lessen the impact of flooding. After the Great Flood of 1993, St. Charles County used federal funding to buy out and remove 450 single-family homes, 400 mobile homes and eight commercial structures in flood-prone areas.

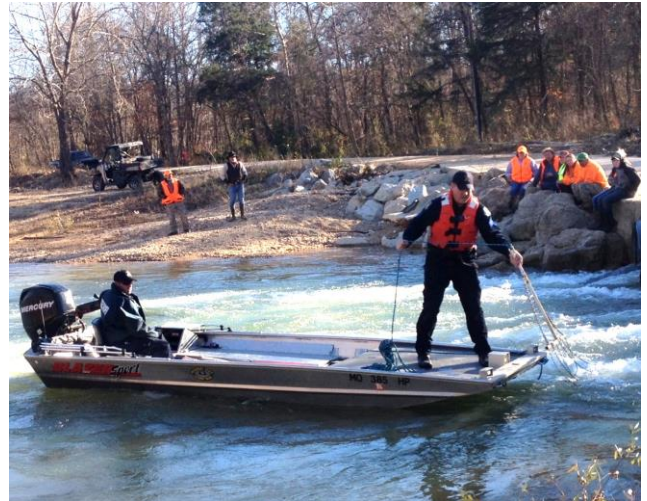
After more flooding in 2008, the county qualified for hazard mitigation and other funding to buy out eight more homes. In addition, by using the Increased Cost of Compliance rider in their National Flood Insurance Program policies, more than 100 other homeowners were able to have their homes elevated for added flood protection.

"We have a long-term strategy of eliminating structures from the flood plain to limit the impact of recurring flooding," said Ellie Marr, St. Charles County floodplain administrator.

### USING MITIGATION TO LOWER RISK, STRESS

Approximately 280 St. Charles County homes remain at high risk of periodic flooding, 34 of which carry a severe repetitive loss risk designation. That's what compelled county officials to again seek FEMA disaster mitigation assistance. In 2014, St. Charles County applied for and received nearly \$348,100 in flood mitigation funding to buy out flood-prone homes that otherwise would not be eligible until another disaster affected the county. Voluntary buyout projects like this provide residents an alternative to living in high flood-risk areas by offering to purchase and demolish their flood-prone homes and relocate to safer areas.

(Continued on page 11)



Missouri State Highway Patrol Marine Operations officers search for a missing motorist in Reynolds County after Nov. 16-17 flooding.

## Two Killed in November Flash Flooding

Heavy rain on Nov. 16 and 17, with accumulations of six or more inches in some areas, led to flash flooding in parts of Missouri and two deaths. Two Reynolds County men died in separate incidents during the overnight hours of Nov. 17.

An Ellington man was killed after his vehicle was swept off a bridge on County Road 510 near Ellington around 2 a.m. on Nov. 18. At about the same time, a Lesterville man was killed when his vehicle was swept off a bridge on County Road 814 eight miles west of Lesterville. His body was located the next day by the MSHP, which utilized boats, a helicopter and ground searches.

"Parts of our county received between five and eight inches of rain in just 48 hours," said Renee Horn, Reynolds County EMD. "Most of our county roads received damage and four low-water bridges were completely washed away."

Rescues of people swept away or stranded by flooding were reported in Franklin, Howell, Lincoln, Pulaski, St. Francois and Warren counties.

According to the National Weather Service, among the areas with the highest rainfall totals for the two days were Freedom at 6.21 inches, Hermann at 5.97 inches and Rosebud at 5.84 inches. The heaviest rainfall for most areas occurred on the afternoon and evening of Nov. 17, when rainfall rates approached one inch per hour.

## SAVE Earthquake Exercise

(Continued from page 1)

"A major earthquake is the worst-case scenario for structural damage, so it's important that our volunteers are ready to handle it," said Ben Ross, SAVE Coalition board chairman. "More than 200 people turned out for this exercise – it's the largest we've ever conducted. We learned a lot and I'm convinced we're much better prepared for a major disaster such as an earthquake."

In addition to Missouri SAVE volunteers, the exercise drew participants from across the New Madrid Seismic Zone, as well as experts from around the country. Assessment teams from Indiana and Arkansas deployed to St. Louis for the event, as did U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assessment experts from Alaska, California, New York and South Carolina. The Missouri National Guard hosted the event and provided logistics support.

The exercise utilized old, unreinforced masonry buildings because of their vulnerability to collapse in an earthquake. SAVE inspectors conducted rapid assessments of the buildings and assigned them colors – green meaning that the building is safe to enter, yellow meaning the building is safe to enter briefly but not to occupy, and red meaning the building is severely damaged and cannot be entered.

In a real emergency, placards with these colors would be posted on each building to let residents know the safety status of their structures.

### NEW TECHNOLOGY TESTED

The exercise was also an opportunity to test new technology. A GIS-based smartphone app, referred to now as the Safety Assessment App, was used for the first time during the exercise. The app allows inspectors to enter assessment data for each structure directly into their phones, assign the rating color and attach photos and notes regarding the assessment. These results are then submitted directly to the operations center, where results for an entire area can be displayed immediately for updates and decision-making by elected officials.

The Safety Assessment App was created by the Central U.S. Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC) for a trial run at the exercise, in hopes of refining it and making it available nationwide for emergency building assessments.

"This was a great opportunity for us to test the new Safety Assessment App in a real-world simulation," said CUSEC Program Manager Brian Blake, who helped develop the app. "SAVE volunteers got some hands-on practice, and we got to see the real-time reporting capability as results came in. I'm pleased with the results and we've now got a better idea of what works and what we've got to improve. I think this will be a good tool for future disasters, and responders across the nation will have access to it for free."

The exercise also tested the use of satellite-based GPS units as well as old-fashioned paper forms to report results if needed.

"What most impressed me is the teamwork," said SEMA Director Ron Walker, who was on hand for the exercise. "We had folks from many states working together to organize this drill, inspect the buildings and report the findings, and they did a great job. In a real event, we'll rely heavily on each other, so now we know who we can contact to get expertise and assistance on the ground quickly."

Missouri's SAVE Coalition includes more than 1,000 volunteers who are available to assist when a disaster such as a tornado or earthquake causes so much structural damage that local officials need help determining the safety of buildings. SEMA helps coordinate activities of the SAVE Coalition, whose members have assisted the state during five disasters, including the May 2011 Joplin tornado.

Find more information about Missouri's SAVE Coalition on the SEMA's earthquake preparedness Web page at: [www.sema.dps.mo.gov](http://www.sema.dps.mo.gov).

### Earthquake Preparedness Videos

are available on the SEMA website.

#### Videos include:

- ✓ Tips on preparing for an earthquake
- ✓ A school *ShakeOut* drill in action
  - ✓ Earthquake 101
- ✓ Earthquake safety in schools
- ✓ "Three Little Pigs" video for kids

#### Go to:

[www.sema.dps.mo.gov](http://www.sema.dps.mo.gov)

*Plan & Prepare  
Earthquakes  
Multimedia*

## EMDs Share Public Assistance Lessons

(Continued from page 4)

- **Documentation can make the difference in qualifying for the assistance you need.** Buchanan County currently can't electronically track the different aspects of the public assistance project work our county employees perform. Throughout a project, employees fill out a paper worksheet that outlines the work they did that day, including the exact location and what equipment and material were used.  
To ensure that we capture every detail for thorough project cost documentation, I designed special forms to gather all the information we would need to support our public assistance claims. The forms even include details such as individual employee salaries and benefits and FEMA equipment cost codes. While this approach took a lot of time and effort, it ultimately made it easier for FEMA to see the work each project required and its actual cost. I also believe that our effort paid off in highly successful public assistance projects.
- **Change is constant and every disaster is different.** Federal and state programs are continually changing and no two disasters are alike. Anyone interested in applying for public assistance needs to attend the applicant briefing for each disaster declaration. Don't rely on what was done for previous disasters to guide your participation in the current disaster's declaration and public assistance processes.
- **Approach the public assistance process like a marathon, not a sprint.** The public assistance process is a complex system of many different processes governed by complicated rules, regulations and procedures, all of which requires an army of people at the local, state and federal levels to function effectively. Working through the public assistance process requires patience at the local level. But it also requires determination and a long-range focus, because once your set of projects finally gets started, it can take a long time to complete them. One of our projects from the 2011 major disaster declaration took nearly three years to complete and officially close out.

## Hazard Mitigation Offers Long-term Protection

(Continued from page 9)

"Since the project began a year ago, we are focusing on mitigating the severe repetitive loss homes located in flood prone areas," said Marr. "It's much less stressful for people to relocate to an area outside of a flood zone now, rather than waiting until after another flooding event."

### HAZARD MITIGATION OPTIONS

In addition to voluntary flood-prone property buyouts, other mitigation options include replacing storm water culverts and low-water crossings, stabilizing stream banks and burying public electric utilities that are susceptible to storm damage. Community tornado safe rooms are another example.

Different federal programs make grants available to help fund hazard mitigation projects. The Non-disaster Grant Program offers assistance for Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) projects; a separate type of funding is targeted for Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA). But adequate funding is a continuing issue.

PDM and FMA projects are funded during Congress' annual budget appropriations process. Typically, there is relatively little money to go around – in fiscal year 2015, the federal PDM program was allocated a total of \$30 million for the entire nation.

Perhaps the most familiar federal mitigation grant is the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). This funding is to help communities implement hazard mitigation measures following a major disaster declaration. HMGP funding provides supplemental federal disaster grant assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures and the repair or replacement of publicly owned facilities and certain private non-profit organizations. The HMGP funding is calculated as 15 percent of federal Public Assistance funding. If a state has enhanced status, as Missouri and 11 other states do, HMGP is 20 percent of PA funding.

SEMA's Mitigation Management Section helps prospective funding applicants navigate through the different mitigation program phases to identify viable projects and possible funding sources.

(Continued on next page)



## Hazard Mitigation Offers Long-term Protection

(Continued from page 11)

### GETTING STARTED

Specific mitigation strategies are typically developed at the county level and should be part of an overall local hazard mitigation plan. While most mitigation strategies are focused on natural hazards, some local entities choose to include certain man-made hazards in their plan. The local strategies are supported by state and federal programs that are in line with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, also known as Public Law 106-390. A final mitigation strategy is created after detailed risk and vulnerability assessments are conducted in the planning area.

To be considered for mitigation program assistance, the applicant must be an eligible city, county, special district, public school, university or community college. Also, the applicant must participate in the county's hazard mitigation planning process and formally adopt the plan by signing an adoption resolution.

Experts say mitigation plans are most effective when all local stakeholders are engaged throughout the planning process. The planning team should include emergency managers, zoning administrators, floodplain managers, public works directors, city planners and others. This can help ensure priority projects and funding programs are identified.

### PAYING FOR MITIGATION PROJECTS

In most cases, mitigation program funds may be used to pay up to 75 percent of the project's eligible costs. The remaining 25 percent is paid from non-federal sources. Typically, FEMA covers the federal share and requires the grant applicant to provide a 25 percent cost match.

One of the challenges for many applicants is finding a way to pay the local share. However, there are ways to meet this match share without having to provide it all in cash. In some instances, applicants can tap into other available resources to cover their portion of eligible costs through in-kind sources of cost match.

For example, this year the city of Waynesville was awarded just over \$209,800 in hazard mitigation funds to help pay for replacing a low-water crossing damaged during recent flash flooding. City officials plan to meet their cost match obligation by using city-owned equipment and city employee labor provided by the Waynesville Department of Public Works. Other examples of cost matching to consider include donated services such as volunteers, building space and land.

If you have questions about mitigation grants, contact Elizabeth Weyrauch, state hazard mitigation officer, at (573) 526-9100 or [elizabeth.weyrauch@sema.dps.mo.gov](mailto:elizabeth.weyrauch@sema.dps.mo.gov).

## SEMA TRAINING SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT DETAILS	LOCATION
Dec. 8-9	EMD (Emergency Management Director) Academy Sponsor: SEMA	State Emergency Operations Center, Jefferson City
Dec. 10	Intelligence Liaison Officer (ILO) Time: 10:00a.m. - 3:30p.m. Sponsor: SEMA	Economic Development Alliance Building, Kirksville
Dec. - Jan.	Hazardous Materials Incident Response: Awareness POST approved; Sponsor: MERC <b>Note: Multiple dates, times and locations offered. For details:</b> <a href="http://training.dps.mo.gov/sematraining.nsf/TrainingSchedule?OpenForm">http://training.dps.mo.gov/sematraining.nsf/TrainingSchedule?OpenForm</a>	
Jan. 23	Railroad Emergency Response and Hazardous Materials Awareness POST approved; Sponsor: MERC Time: 8:30a.m. - 12:30p.m.	Riverside Fire Department, Riverside



Jan. - Feb.	Hazardous Materials Incident Response: Operations POST approved; Sponsor: MERC <b>Note: Multiple dates, times and locations offered. For details:</b> <a href="http://training.dps.mo.gov/sematraining.nsf/TrainingSchedule?OpenForm">http://training.dps.mo.gov/sematraining.nsf/TrainingSchedule?OpenForm</a>	
Jan. 28-29	Hazardous Weather & Flooding Preparedness (APS Elective Course) POST approved; Sponsor: SEMA	St. Louis County Office of Emergency Management, Ballwin
Feb. 2-4	Basic Public Information Officer Training (APS Elective Course) POST approved; Sponsor: SEMA	United Way of Southeast Missouri, Cape Girardeau
Feb. 16-18	ICS300 Intermediate Incident Command System POST approved; Sponsor: SEMA	Springfield/Greene County Public Safety Center
Feb. 22 - March 4	Hazardous Materials Incident Response: 80 Hour Technician POST approved; Sponsor: MERC <b>Note: Multiple dates and times offered at this location. For details:</b> <a href="http://training.dps.mo.gov/sematraining.nsf/TrainingSchedule?OpenForm">http://training.dps.mo.gov/sematraining.nsf/TrainingSchedule?OpenForm</a>	Chillicothe Fire Dept. Training Room
Feb. 23	Emergency Operations Plans for Rural Jurisdictions POST approved; Sponsor: SEMA	Mineral Area Community College, Park Hills
Feb. 24-25	Missouri Disaster Animal Sheltering & Handling (MO-DASH) Sponsor: SEMA	First United Methodist Church, Sedalia

**Note: This list does not include invitation-only or local offering-only events. View the complete SEMA training schedule with details on the SEMA website's Training and Exercises page.**

## **SEMA News**

is the newsletter of the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency

Find **SEMA News** on our website at [www.sema.dps.mo.gov](http://www.sema.dps.mo.gov)

Click on

***News and Publications***